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## THE FARMER'S WAR-TIME FIRE PROBLEM

An interview between Dr. David J. Price, Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, and Wallace L. Kadderly, Radio Service in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Monday, October 5, 1942. Over stations associated with the Blue Network.

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KADDERLY: One of the many problems war is bringing to the farm is control of

Fire losses are even more serious now than in peace-time. These days, when a house or barn burns, it's hard to get materials and labor to rebuild it—it's impossible to replace some of the equipment lost—and crops and livestock destroyed represent a set-back to our food program. Every farm fire is a reverse on our home front.

The country is observing National Fire Prevention Week—it's an appropriate time to get some plans and ideas to meet this farm fire problem from Dr. David J. Price. Dr. Price is a Department of Agriculture authority on farm fires, and also president of the National Fire Protection Association.

Dr. Price, what would you say are special fire problems the war has brought to the farm?

PRICE: I'd say, for one thing, there's always more danger of fire when folks are rushed, when they're working long hours, when they're tired. They're more liable to set the lantern where it will get kicked over, or forget to shut off the electric iron, or fail to fix a worn light cord.

KADDERLY: New, inexperienced hired help may be careless with pipes and cigarettes, and so on.

And farmers have to fight fires with fewer men.

PRICE: Exactly.

KADDERLY: Well, how can farmers meet this war-time fire problem?

PRICE: To begin with, it will pay every farm family to go over the house, the barn, and other buildings to find, and remove, fire hazards.

KADDERLY: I believe there are charts showing the things to look for and do.

PRICE: Yes, very simple, practical charts. Even the youngsters can use them. In fact, in some states, 4-H club boys and girls have done a fine job finding and correcting fire hazards in their homes and buildings.

KADDERLY: But, in spite of all precautions, we're going to have fires. How can farmers best deal with fires under present conditions?

PRICE: I think the best way is to organize rural fire companies. Farmers already have organized close to 10 thousand of these fire companies — a large percentage of them since Pearl Harbor. We need many more until we have a fire company in every rural community in the United States.

KADDERLY: But with the shortage of rubber and metal, how can we equip all these new fire companies?

PRICE: Part of the answer is to keep in good condition — and keep ready for action—the equipment already on farms. I mean axes, shovels, and ladders—and water buckets, barrels of water, and pumps—In addition, some rural fire companies are arranging with fire companies in near-by towns to make runs into the country, not only fire trucks but also, where necessary with tanks of water.

And here's an idea that may hold possibilities. In some parts of the country, farmers may fight fires with high pressure spray rigs. Under some conditions, the mist works even better than a stream of water. The misty spray tends to smother a fire almost like a chemical extinguisher. But remember, it's got to be high pressure—and also a spray nozzle must be used.

KADDERLY: These high pressure spray rigs are confined mainly to the fruit and truck regions in the East and West.

PRICE: Very true. But those are the "defense zones" where danger of fire might be especially great.

KADDERLY: Well, the high pressure spray rig DOES sound as if it has possibilities.

Now, Dr. Price, how can farm families get those check sheets—and how can they get help in organizing rural fire companies, and find out about new developments in fire fighting such as the use of spray rigs.

PRICE: Contact their county agricultural agent, or State agricultural extension service. The Agricultural Extension people are prepared to give every possible aid to farm families in meeting this war-time fire problem on the farm.

KADDERLY: Farm and Home friends, that was Dr. David J. Price, a Department of Agriculture authority on farm fires, and also president of the National Fire Protection Association.

As Dr. Price suggested, you can get those charts to guide you in checking and correcting fire hazards on your farm, and aid in organizing a fire company in your community, from your county agricultural agent, or your State agricultural extension service.

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